



The California Desert Coalition
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March 28, 2008

Memo to Johanna Wald

Subject: **Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative Phase 1A Draft Report**

Dear Johanna:

Thank you for soliciting our comments regarding the draft report. However, we would further argue that eight days to comment on a 255 page report hampers comprehensive review and comments. If this timing becomes the norm for the RETI process, it contradicts the claims of transparency and cooperation that were touted at the CEERT forum.

As a general comment, we are very disappointed at the treatment of environmental concerns in the draft Black and Veatch work plan, or rather the non-treatment. Throughout the work of RETI, environmental concerns must be given equal consideration with economic (and other) issues if we are to achieve the goals you set out to achieve. In other words, the environment can not be an "add-on". Environmental concerns *must* be fully integrated.

Secondly, we urge that more stringent screening must be utilized to determine available renewable resources as well as appropriate sites for generation and transmission. The development and use of these screens must precede the "valuation" of the renewable resources.

Thirdly, we recommend that the ranking of "renewable energy zones" must include environmental factors. We reiterate that these factors must be given equal consideration with economic and other factors.

Please be advised that once we have more fully reviewed this report, we will be making additional comments that we will forward to you. We anticipate that because of your demand for this quick turnaround, you will be willing to incorporate our later recommendations.

We look forward to further opportunities for comments.

 

April Sall, CDC Chair
Ruth Rieman, Vice Chair